Telephone Exchange of Kurebhar

2622. MISS FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kurebhar Telephone Exchange of Sultanpur (UP) remains out of order for almost 10 days in a month;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to rectify the problem;

(c) whether Government are also aware that all the telephone lines of village Chamurkha get damaged frequently due to overhead line wires;

(d) the reasons for not laying underground cables for above village whereas same has been done in case of village Seur; and

(e) by when, Government would lay underground cables for the above village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, Kurebhar exchange is working quite satisfactorily.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Only one telephone connection is working in village Chamurkha, which is on line and wire. There is no prolonged interruption in service. However, immediate action is taken to rectify the fault as soon as fault is reported.

(d) As only one telephone is working and there is no additional demand for telephone in village Chamurkha cable has not been laid. Whereas in village Seur 26 telephone connections are working and hence the cable was laid, to provide these connections.

(e) Since there is no demand for additional telephones, there is no plan to lay the under ground cable at present in Chamurkha village.

STD and ISD Facilities

†2623. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telecommunication Centre which have been equipped with STD and ISD facility;

(b) whether there is a scheme to convert STD facility into local call gradually; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to make reduction in STD rates in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are 719 Telecommunication Centres which are equipped with STD and ISD facilities.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to convert STD facility into local.

(c) At present, there is no proposal in BSNL to make more reduction in STD rates.

Royalty and Licence Fee on Wireless

2624. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non levy of royalty and licence fee from wireless users, his Ministry have failed to recover to huge amount;

(b) if so, how much amout was not recovered; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 16.17 crores was due to be recovered from licencees towards licence renewal fees.

(c) Even though the onus of renewal of licence lies on the licencees, notices were issued for the recovery of dues. An amount of Rs. 6.53 crores has been received.

Inflated Figures for BPL Households

2625. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey undertaken recently to identify Below Poverty Line households has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the figures for Below Poverty Line households have been inflated in some States in as much as against four million households in Andhra Pradesh, 11 million ration cards have been issued; in Gujarat as against 2 million, the cards issued are 3 million and in Orissa against 3 million households, 4 million cards have been issued; and

(d) the details of the procedure followed to ensure identification of genuine Below Poverty Line households only?